

REVIEW.

Thursday, April 2. 1713.

Becaufe I so freely gave you my Opinion formerly, about the King of Sweden, which has not issued altogether as I told you, I did expect it would; therefore, I think it may be proper to say a Word or two more to it, now the Certainty of the Fact allows it no longer to be doubted.

I have no Reason to make the least excuse for my believing this News before; did not all the world see it so improbable, that they stood as it were amaz'd, expecting every Day to have the particular Accounts from Hands that might be Credible? Did not the Swedish Ministers every where laugh at the very Suggestion, as a thing improbable, and irrational?

But I am farther justif'd in what I said before of believing it, because I gave a Reason for it, which I think was a very good one, (viz.) that I did not think the King of Sweden distract'd; But if the King of Sweden will be distract'd, who can help that? Or, who can make any tolerable Guess at things; if they just not suppose Men of such Figure as he to be acting the rational Part? Would any Body expect the King of Sweden, who was fled from the Muscovites, with a few remains of his ruin'd Fortunes; and had taken Sanctuary in the Hands of the Magicians, should Quarrel with his Landlords; and when he did, would any Body have believ'd the King of Sweden at Bender should begin a War with the whole Turkish Empire; and that with an Obstinacy against the Entreaties of all his Friends? — as it is possible to imagine, that he would Defend a House against an Army, and with 300 Men fight 300! What had it been the better for him to have beaten them? Or, what the worse to have complied with that quietly, which he saw it impossible to refuse?

If with his handful of Men he had cut off every one of the Turks and Tartars that attackt him, which is improbable, yet what had he been the better? He could neither have staid where he was, nor have gone away; if he had come away, he would have been stop'd and attack'd in his Passage every where, and at last surrounded and cut off; if he had staid, he might have been sure to have been fallen upon by fresh Troops, and cut in Pieces. So that all

he has done, seems to me to be a means to no End, (viz.) a mere Piece of Desperation and Distraction, and who could have expected this from the King of Sweden, who for three Years together had so turn'd and manag'd the Affairs of the Ottoman Empire, by his Subtilty and Conduct, that he had obtain'd the Reputation of a most Politick Prince? And while he hover'd as it were, like a Cloud, in that part of the World, he made all these Parts of Christendom apprehend he would break out like a Storm somewhere at last; so as might be fatal to the General Peace of all Europe.

The best Observation I can make of it now is this, that God has infatuated him in Mercy to Christendom, and in Order to prevent the Ruin and Destruction, which would necessarily have follow'd an Irruption of the Mahometan Armies into Poland and the Empire, which he was endeavouring to bring to pass.

But what shall I say now to those Gentlemen that charg'd me with Arrogance, when at the beginning of the last Rumours we had of his Swedish Majesty's Design, to renew the War between the Turks and Muscovites, I undertook to say, Review No. . . . that if the King of Sweden did attempt to invade the Christian Dominions, at the head of the Mahometan Powers HE SHOULD NOT PROSPER: Now whether it was Arrogance or no, is not the Question, but is it come to pass or no?

Once before that, Upon the Preparations of the King of Denmark for the Invasion of Schonen, Vol. 7. I expressly said, and printed it, That if the Danes did attack Schonen, at that Juncture, and in the declining Favour of the Swedish Affairs, they should NOT PROSPER: How the event confirm'd it you all know: Whether I was Arrogant in saying so or not, is not the Question; but did it come to pass or no?

When the King of Sweden omitted the glorious Opportunity he had to have given Peace to Europe, and turning his back upon the glorious Occasion, march'd out of Saxony, in pursuit of his Resolution, to depose the Czar of Muscovy; I then took upon me, after describing the Circumstances of that inconsiderable March, to say, That if he did continue in

in his Resolutions, His PIPER, meaning, Count Piper, his Chief Counsellor, would lead him such a Dance, as it would be very hard for him to find his Way back again: Whether I was Arrogant, or those that genfur d me, is not the Question; but *has it come to pass or no?*

Now Gentlemen, let me add one thing more, what will become of the Person of the King of Sweden, I do not pretend to determine, perhaps I may tell you that too in a very little time; but I'll take upon me to exert one Piece of Proprietick Arrogance more, judge of it as you think fit, let the event answer for it.

It is true, the Swedish Affairs are at this time very low, and they are surrounded with Powerful Enemies, the only Army they had any reviving hopes in, was that of Count Steinbock, who has taken a step he cannot Extricate himself out of, and is in a fair Way to be oblig'd to surrender himself and his whole Army Prisoners of War; what will become of their King, I see no room to speak of yet nor do I much concern my self about him; but this I speak positively, let the Czar of Muscovy be as Cruel and as Bloody as he will, let the Dane and Saxon go on; if the Saxon would be establish'd in Poland, I believe he may: But if the Resolution be to divest the Swedes of their Dearly-purchas'd Territories in Germany, which are the safety of the Protestants, and were given the Swedes for that End; if not regarding the Protestant Interest they push at dispossessing the Swedes of their footing in the Empire, Mark the Issue, THEY SHALL NOT PROSPER: No, they shall never be able to bring it to pass; and those that push it hardest, shall find their Ruin in the Attempt; let the event Answer for the Foundation on which it is I speak of it. I am moved in my Thought to be very Positive, nor shall the Overthrow of Count Steinbock prevent what I say in the least; tho' he were now Prisoner of War with all his Troops.

The Czar, as our Papers say, has already burnt, either Gratz upon Oder, or Wolgast in Pomerania as he march'd that Way, towards his own Territories. This I suppose is a return for the Fire at Altena; and no doubt, but when the Swedes come to take their turn again, the Innocent Inhabitants of some Danish City shall suffer for this Muscovite Barbarity; and I am perswaded, if this War is not soon at an End, The City of Copenhagen, as high as the Dane carries it now, shall Flame in this Quarrel, by way of Retaliation.

The Czar takes a new Method of making War, and I doubt not, is laying the Foundation for his own Ruin, which when ever it happens, I believe, mark me, I say, I believe it only, Europe will rejoice in the downfall of his Power, as they would of a Royal Butcher, rather than a Christian Monarch; and that I may not be supposed in this to shew disrespect to crown'd Heads, which indeed, to Christian Princes I never do; I must own, as I formerly said, and gave my Reasons for it, That I shall never esteem

him a Christian, as long as he permits his Subjects to sell his Prisoners of War to the Mahomedans.

My farther Reasons for being perhaps severall in this Case than usual, is upon a Supposition of Things being true, which I have seen in Print. If they are not fact, then what I say goes for nothing; if they are True, I only approve all I have said; it is my Opinion, that no Man ought to treat a Monarch, as if he were a Prince or a Sovereign, but rather as if he was a raving Bear out of the unbridled Forests of Siberia, a part of his wildest Domions.

The first of these we have in the London Gazette of March 31. there's my Authority, in the Article from Hamb. April 4. N.S. The Words are these: The Czar has made a Declaration, that he will enslave and Destroy the Dutchy of Pomerania, in Case the Swedes Transport any more Forces to that Country. Now in the first Place, Pomerania is the Swedes proper Dominions, to transport Forces thither, is absolutely necessary to them; and in Relief to the Subjects of Sweden is justifable according to the Laws of War, and they ought to do it. To destroy the Country because the Swedes endeavour to preserve it, is as General besieging a City should say, he would call all the Burghers to the Sword, if the Garrison offered to defend it: Which, in the first Place, the Garrison as Men of Honour are bound to do, and in the second Place, the Burghers are not to blame in, and not prevent it:

If he destroys the poor Country for this, as in he is like enough to do, for I think 'tis the best kind of War that ever he made; if he does he shall never be with any other respect from me, I mean, in Writing his Crown and Dignity being no way concerned here, Than a Siberian BEAR, for Monsters to meet all alike, let them be of what Character and Dignity soever.

To destroy a Country, because the Subjects, Men of Honour defend it, and preserve their Loyalty as long as they can to their Prince, is Contrary to all the Maxims of War, and to the practice of the Generous Princes in the World; besides, 'tis undoubted Testimony of a Cowardly Despair, a Conquering it; for nothing but, as I said, a Siberian Bear would Destroy People, whom he had any thoughts of making his own Subjects; if therefore he does this, 'tis either the Effect of a Brutal Nature, or a Declaration that he never expects to reduce the Country, and therefore Bear-like will Destroy them.

The other Articles respect a Civil Threat of Royal Siberian, relating to our Merchants in Russia upon the report of an English Squadron going to the Baltic; but of this I forbear to speak farther, because I will be no Instrument to prompt his Cruelty upon a few Innocent Merchants of our own, who dwell in his Dominions; tho' I doubt not, the British Government will do themselves justice upon him, and all the Humane Bears of his Country, as far as it is, in any such Case, if it should happen: of that hereafter.